GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:122
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2003
WIRELESS TELEPHONE FACILITIES IN VILLAGES
DUKHA BHAGAT

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide wireless telephones in the villages in the current calendar year;

(b) if so, the number of villages in each district likely to be provided the above facility, State-wise; and

(c) the criteria laid down for identifying these villages?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DISINVESTMENT (ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 122 FOR 26TH FEBRUARY, 2003 REGARDING WIRELESS TELEPHONE FACILITIES IN VILLAGES.

(a) & (b): Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) prepares a programme each financial year to provide Telephone connections in Rural Areas also. Some of these connections are based on Wireless Telephony. The target for rural WLL for financial year 2002-2003 is 3,40,000 connections and for 2003-2004, 4,61,000 connections. The target is not maintained on the basis of calendar year.

These connections are provided by setting up a network of BTSs (Base Trans-Receiver Stations) and rural exchanges which are planned on the basis of demand for telephone connections in the SDCA (Short Distance Charging Area).It is not possible to plan the exact number of villages which can be covered by a BTS due to the fact that wireless signal coverage depends on terrain, obstructions etc. Planning is done by fixing the number of BTSs and if some part of the waiting list is uncovered, alternative technological solutions are attempted.

(c) The villages within a distance of 5 K.M. from exchange are provided by land lines and for 5-25 KMs connectivity is given on WLL from the nearest BTS, if the line of sight is clear up to the village.